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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

PUBLIC **AI Index: ASA 21/03/99**

UA 18/99 **Extrajudicial execution** **28 January 1999**

EAST TIMOR

Olandino Pereira, killed
Angelina de Jesus (f), killed
Luis Pereira, killed
Fernando Cardoso, killed

Adelino Barreto, injured
Hermengelido Freitas, injured

Cipriano, Alipio, Silverio, Rofina, Joana, Rui

At least four people, including one woman, are alleged to have been killed by armed paramilitary groups since 24 January 1999. Amid growing instability and escalating violence in East Timor, Amnesty International is concerned that, unless these groups are immediately disbanded, more people will be killed.

Although the authorities blame the killings on conflicts between opponents and supporters of East Timorese independence, Amnesty International is concerned that the attacks have been provoked by the security forces, which has trained and armed paramilitary groups in East Timor.

According to the East Timor Human Rights Centre (ETHRC), Olandino Pereira, Angelina de Jesus and Luis Pereira were shot dead, and Adelino Barreto and Hermengelido Freitas were seriously injured by military and civilian militia groups in the village of Galitas in Zumalai sub-district on 25 January. Angelina de Jesus is thought to have been pregnant. Fernando Cardoso was reportedly killed on 24 January by a civilian militia group.

The deaths have been corroborated in a media interview by the head of the Dili-based Movement for Reconciliation and Unity of the people of East Timor.

The ETHRC have also said that six people, including five children, are unaccounted for following the killings in Galitas. They are Cipriano (25), Alipio (15), Silverio (14), Rofina (12), Joana (13) and Rui (16). Amnesty International is unable to confirm whether they have "disappeared".

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Despite a more open political environment in East Timor since the resignation of President Suharto in May 1998 and recent statements by the authorities that they are willing to consider East Timorese independence, the level of human rights violations in the territory shows no signs of declining.

Military reprisals for the killing of seven Indonesians (six soldiers and one civilian) in October and November 1998 resulted in human rights violations in the area of Alas in November. Reports of the number of deaths range from four to 50. Eleven people, including two women, have been charged with involvement in the killings of the Indonesians. All have been denied access to lawyers and some have been tortured and suffered ill-treatment, including severe beatings.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:

- urging the Indonesian authorities to immediately set up an independent investigation of reports of extrajudicial killings in Zumalai sub-district and to bring to justice those responsible;
- urging the authorities to provide information on the whereabouts of the six people reported to be missing;
- urging the authorities to immediately regularise or disband all armed paramilitary groups in East Timor;
- reminding the government of Indonesia of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 3: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person".

APPEALS TO (please note fax tones may be difficult to obtain):

Commander Resort Military Command (KOREM) 164/Wiradharma (covers East Timor)
Colonol Tono Suratman
Markas KOREM 164/Wiradharma
Dili, East Timor, Indonesia
Telegrams: **Colonol Suratman, East Timor, Indonesia**
Faxes: **+ 62 390 321 624 (if voice, ask for fax tone)**
Salutation: **Dear Colonol Suratman**

COPIES TO:

Minister of Defence and Security/Commander of the Armed Forces
General Wiranto
Menteri Pertahan dan Keamanan
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No 13-14
Jakarta 10110, Indonesia
Faxes: **+ 62 21 381 4535**

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ali Alatas SH
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl Medan Taman Pejambon No 6
Jakarta, Indonesia
Faxes: **+ 62 21 380 5511/345 7782/360 541/724 5354**

and to diplomatic representatives of East Timor accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 March 1999.